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into which drop a little powdered charcoal), and half a dozen flowers inserted into its midst will make a thing of beauty as long as they last. They must never be crowded, but should be so arranged as to show their individualities.

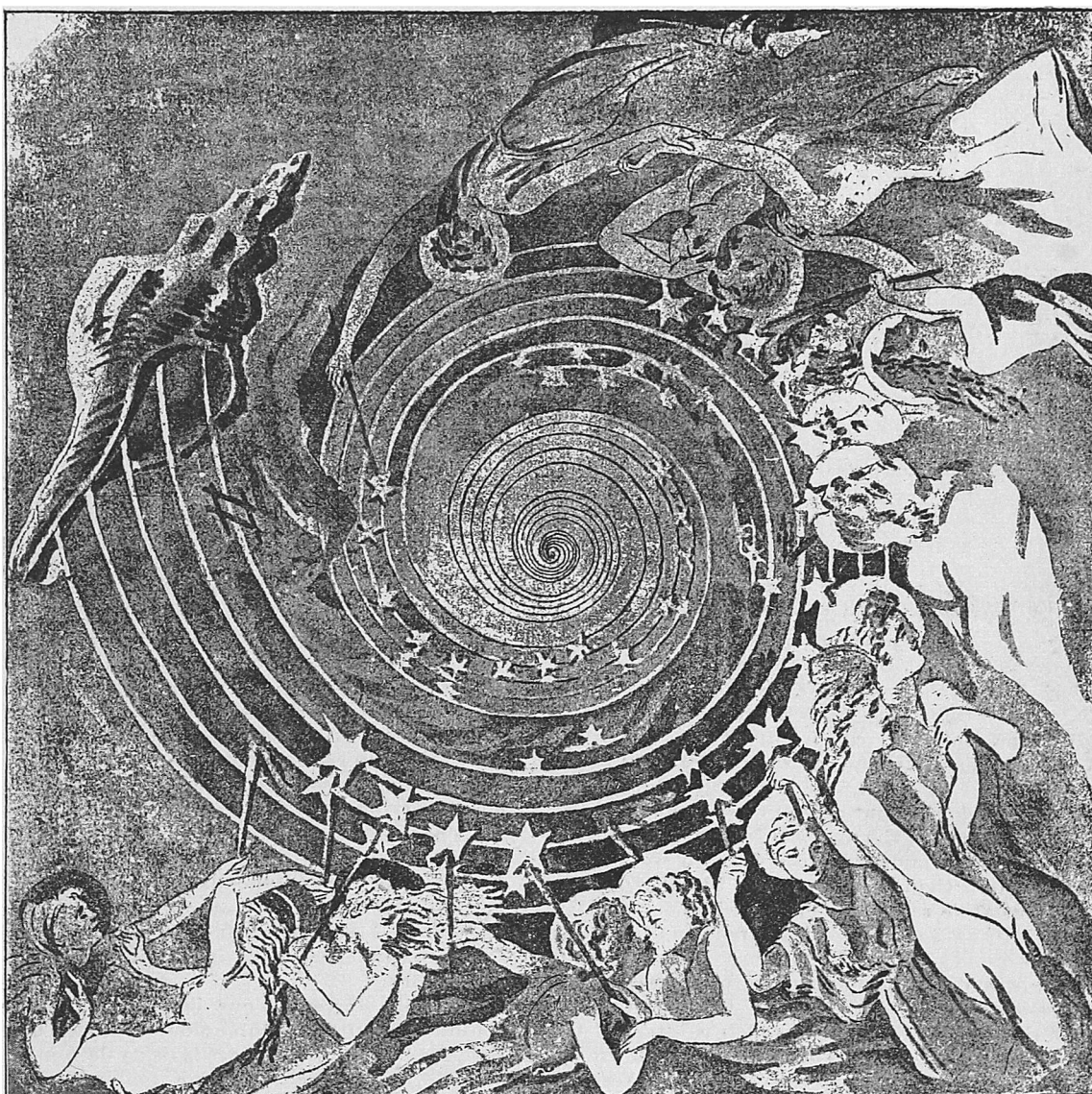
One pretty fashion in table decoration is to insert in the centre of a loose knot of green silk a cluster of flowers or a spray of lilies, or of roses. The stems may be kept fresh in a bowl of water concealed by the silk, which is festooned over a piece of pasteboard, through an aperture of which they pass to reach the fluid. But it is a mixture of the natural and artificial to which many persons object.

Where flowers are not ordinarily attainable without much expense, the housekeeper may embroider a piece of satin in floral designs for the table centre. The ground may be a delicate olive or yellow, or even blue, if it matches the china. The edges may be deeply scalloped and finished with lace. On this a bonbon bowl and a few other fancy pieces of crystal or porce-

white ribbon, white jellies, and white ices, else the monotony of a single tint will destroy the intended effect. To carry out this scheme of decoration, the hostess herself ought to wear a dress finished with a garniture of carnation-colored ribbons or flowers.

A FRESCO DESIGN FOR THE CEILING OF A MUSIC ROOM.

DESIGN in interior decorations has by no means come to a standstill. We reproduce from "The Gentlewoman," an English illustrated periodical, an original decorative design for the ceiling of a music room, the subject of which is "The Music of the Spheres." We all know that musical vibrations take a spiral, shell-like form and we have all held a large shell to our ear and thought we heard the music of the waves; so in memory of the beautiful similes creation unfolds to us, let us say in Wordsworth's words, "Even such a Shell the universe itself is to the ear of



FRESCO DESIGN FOR THE CEILING OF A MUSIC ROOM. SUBJECT—THE MUSIC OF THE SPHERES.

lain, or even a small pot of ferns, or a plant in blossom, will give a pleasing character to a table at any season of the year. Nasturtiums are hardy and easily cultivated; and nothing can be more decorative than a large, loose bunch of this brilliant flame-like blossom. It may be inserted in a blue Japanese jar or a grey and blue ginger jar, in order to show to the best advantage.

Whatever scheme of color is begun should be carried out into minor details. At a carnation dinner or tea, let a carnation lie beside each plate, with or without a white flower to keep it company, but always with a spray of greenery. Pink shades of crimped tissue paper should cover the lamps or gas lights. There may be pink jellies and pink ices. Each of these comestibles, however, ought to be accompanied by something of the same kind, though uncolored. For instance, there should be

faith." In the accompanying design the volute is made of the five lines of the treble clef in music; the shell from which it issues much resembles the sign of the treble clef. That beautiful strain of Mozart from the *Magic Flute*, "Oh cara armonia! oh dolce piacer!" is written on the lines in the form of constellations. The principal notes of the harmony are electric lights made in the form of stars and borne by figures, either as lighted torches, or upon their heads; the musical rests are represented by extinct torches. The notes that complete the harmony are represented by white paint. The longer the duration of the note the larger must be the electric globe. The figures bearing the stars give the impression that they are forever whirling onward.

The color of this ceiling is smoky-blue and white in various shades. This ceiling would look best in fresco, but if painted in oils the colors should be flatted.